

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
MAYOR'S MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2006**

The Executive Committee of the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force (MMHTF) met in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Conference Room 29A, 111 N.W. First Street, Miami, Florida at 1:24 p.m. on January 12, 2006, there being present Honorable Steve Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Florida and Co-Chair, MMHTF; Mr. Jack Lowell, Vice-Chairman, Codina Group and Co-Chair, MMHTF; Ms. Silvia Quintana, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Program Supervisor, District 11 – Florida Department of Children and Families and Co-Chair, MMHTF; and Task Force members Mr. Tim Coffey, Assistant Project Coordinator, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project; Deputy County Manager Pete Hernandez, representing Miami-Dade County Manager George Burgess; Mr. David Raymond, Executive Director, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust; Ms. Terry Chavez, Mental Health Coordinator, State Attorney's Office, representing Chief Assistant State Attorney Don Horn; Dr. Scott Allen, representing Miami-Dade Police Department Director Robert Parker; Ms. Valda Clark Christian, Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office and Deputy Clerk Judy Marsh.

The following staff members from the Office of the Mayor were present: Mr. Juan Carlos Del Valle, Assistant to the Mayor; Ms. Maria Robau, Project Manager, Mayor's Mental Health Task Force; and Elinette Garcia-Navarro, J.D., Mayor's Assistant, Public Affairs.

Also present was Mr. John Kowal.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Honorable Steve Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge, Eleventh Judicial District of Florida and Co-Chairman, Miami-Dade County Mayor's Mental Health Task Force (MMHTF), called the Executive Committee meeting of the MMHTF to order at 1:24 p.m.

Following introduction of the Committee members, it was moved by Mr. David Raymond that the minutes of the November 8, 2005 Executive Committee meeting be approved. This motion was seconded by Ms. Terry Chavez, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

**II. Update of Subcommittee Activities, Objectives and Assignments**

Judge Leifman noted the Committee members would be apprised of the status of the Subcommittee activities through the Executive Committee meetings.

### **A. Criminal Mental Health Project Subcommittee**

Honorable Steve Leifman, Co-Chair, Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP) Subcommittee, summarized the activities of the CMHP Subcommittee as follows:

- The CMHP was seeking to expand the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Policing and develop recommendations for standardized CIT operating procedures;
- develop a public relations campaign to educate the community about the CIT program with assistance from the County's Communications Department, and via information on BellSouth telephone bills by zip codes;
- develop an advisory board comprised of police officers to assist the Subcommittee in re-examining the CIT curriculum;
- develop a CIT training program for correctional officers who work on floors housing mentally ill inmates;
- promote the use of best practices in the screening of individuals with potential mental illnesses;
- develop recommendations for expansion of the Jail Diversion Program; and
- explore the possibility of a training program for receiving nurses at the mental health receiving facilities.

Judge Leifman noted the CMHP Subcommittee was apprised that a rate increase was being negotiated for correctional officers who worked on floors housing inmates with mental illnesses.

Judge Leifman said the new arrest affidavit was being finalized and would include a box for police officers to check if the individuals were homeless and a box reflecting whether the person was a Possible Mental Health Defendant (PMHD). He noted the CMHP Subcommittee had requested that a special unit to treat individuals with mental illnesses be established at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

In response to a suggestion by Mr. David Raymond, Judge Leifman requested Mr. Raymond contact representatives of Florida Power and Light regarding the inclusion of CIT information on electric bills.

Discussion ensued between Judge Leifman and Ms. Terry Chavez, Mental Health Coordinator, State Attorney's Office, regarding the screening process for inmates with potential mental illnesses.

Judge Leifman requested that police officers who had complaints about the receiving facilities contact him or Ms. Habsi Kaba.

### **B. Mental Health Diversion Facility Subcommittee**

Prior to the arrival of Co-Chair Jack Lowell, Judge Leifman summarized the activities

being undertaken by the Mental Health Diversion Facility (MHDF) Subcommittee, relating to acquisition of the South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center and utilization of this Center as the proposed mental health diversion facility. He noted Governor Jeb Bush had agreed to facilitate purchase of the Treatment Center for use as the proposed diversion facility.

Assistant County Manager Pete Hernandez said he would provide a report to the MHDF Subcommittee on the zoning issues associated with operation of the proposed diversion facility and the best method of acquiring the Treatment Center.

Judge Leifman noted many of the issues to be addressed by the MHDF Subcommittee would also be addressed by the Mental Health Care Finance, Sustainability & Policy Subcommittee.

Pursuant to a suggestion from Mr. David Raymond, Judge Leifman asked Mr. Raymond to contact Mr. David Rosemond, City of Miami, on behalf of the Executive Committee, requesting his input on the redesign of the Treatment Center to facilitate the proposed mental health diversion facility.

Judge Leifman noted the Miami-Dade Department of Corrections was working closely with the MHDF Subcommittee to develop the proposed mental health facility.

Judge Leifman requested that notification be provided to the members of the Baker Act/Assisted Outpatient Treatment Subcommittee regarding the conferences to be conducted by the Florida Mental Health Institute on March 21, 2006 at the James L. Knight Center, referenced by Ms. Chavez.

Judge Leifman welcomed Mr. Jack Lowell, Co-Chair, Mental Health Diversion Facility Subcommittee. He congratulated Mr. Lowell on his award from the March of Dimes.

Mr. Jack Lowell, Co-Chair, Mental Health Diversion Facility (MHDF) Subcommittee, continued summation of the activities being undertaken by the MHDF Subcommittee. He noted the Subcommittee was negotiating with a consultant to provide recommendations on the physical/operational aspects of the proposed mental health diversion facility.

Referring to Mr. Lowell's comments, Assistant County Manager Hernandez said he would provide a report to the MHDF Subcommittee on the zoning issues associated with operation of the proposed diversion facility and acquisition of the Treatment Center.

Mr. Lowell discussed the current operating agreement between Geo Care and the Department of Children and Families for the Treatment Center. He also noted the new location for the proposed diversion facility was approved by Miami-Dade County.

Discussion ensued among the Executive Committee members regarding operation of the proposed diversion facility.

Mr. Juan Carlos Del Valle, Assistant to the Mayor, said County Manager George Burgess indicated he would be reviewing the operational aspect of the facility.

Mr. Tim Coffey, Assistant Mental Health Project Coordinator, said he forwarded a copy of the Geo Care contract to Assistant County Attorney Hugo Benitez. He suggested that the consultant referenced by Mr. Lowell provide assistance with operational issues concerning the proposed diversion facility.

### **C. Baker Act/AOT Subcommittee**

Judge Leifman welcomed Ms. Silvia Quintana, Co-Chair, Baker Act/Assisted Outpatient Treatment Subcommittee.

Ms. Silvia Quintana, Co-Chair, Baker Act/Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Subcommittee, summarized the activities being undertaken by the Subcommittee. She said the Subcommittee discussed the impact of implementation of the AOT legislation on the judiciary, the legal providers and mental health providers; the financial impact of this legislation; and the need for legislative changes to address potential liability issues associated with implementation of the AOT. Ms. Quintana noted the December 9, 2005 and January 13, 2006 workgroup reports would be forwarded to the Committee members.

Judge Leifman suggested the Baker Act/AOT Subcommittee determine the individuals who should be receiving assisted outpatient treatment. He also suggested that proposed legislative recommendations from the Baker Act/AOT Subcommittee be submitted to the Mental Health Care Finance, Sustainability & Policy Subcommittee.

Upon conclusion of Ms. Quintana's report, discussion ensued among the Committee members regarding the procedures for declaring surplus property.

Mr. Raymond suggested Mr. Lowell contact Mr. Peter England, Camillus House, regarding the legislative transfer of property.

In response to Mr. Lowell's request that a title search and a zoning opinion be provided, Assistant County Manager Pete Hernandez said he would initiate contact with the County Attorney's Office and report back to the MHDF Subcommittee.

### **D. Mental Health Care Finance, Sustainability & Policy Subcommittee**

Not Presented

### **III. Agenda for full Task Force Meeting on 1/31/06**

The Executive Committee members reviewed the proposed agenda for the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force meeting scheduled for January 31, 2006. Judge Leifman noted timelines for Subcommittee proposals would be discussed at the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Judge Leifman announced that the Partners in Crisis luncheon would be held on February 24, 2006, at the Radisson Hotel and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez would be honored at this luncheon.

Mr. Juan Carlos Del Valle, Assistant to Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez, noted Mayor Alvarez was recently honored as a health care hero.

### **IV. Other Items**

Judge Leifman noted the next Executive Committee meeting of the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force would be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. He noted the venue would be announced.

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business to come before the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force Executive Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.